

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The claims have been amended, where appropriate, to clarify the manner in which the amended claims distinguish patentably from the prior art, including the references relied upon in the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 103(a).

Claims 4, 5, 6, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gedeon. Claim 4 has been cancelled and the subject matter thereof has been incorporated in dependent Claim 5, which now recites that the flange and the shank have rectangular cross-sections and the slits divide all the sides of the rectangular cross-section of the flange. No such disclosure is found in Gedeon, and such a construction would be contra-indicated in view of the positions of the abutments 44 and 46. Accordingly, Claim 5 and dependent Claims 6 and 9 distinguish patentably from Gedeon.

Claims 4, 5, 6, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tinnerman. There is no teaching in Tinnerman of the above-described invention recited in Claim 5. Accordingly, Claim 5 and dependent Claims 6, 9, and 10 distinguish patentably from Tinnerman.

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kojima in view of Gedeon. Claim 1 has been cancelled and the subject matter thereof incorporated into Claim 2. That subject matter has been

amended to recite that the protrusions project from outer peripheral surfaces of the shank, and Claim 2 has been amended to recite that the axial slits are formed in positions corresponding to the center of all sides of the periphery of the rectangular cross-section of the flange and the shank.

Kojima does not disclose protrusions that project from outer peripheral surfaces of the shank, as recited in Claim 2. The protrusions 6 are outer peripheral surfaces of the shank. Kojima does not teach a rectangular cross-section flange with slits that divide all the sides of the rectangular cross-section of the flange, as recited in Claim 2. Moreover, Kojima does not teach protrusions projecting from outer peripheral surfaces of the shank and having an L-shaped cross-section embracing corresponding corners of the rectangular cross-section of the shank, as recited in Claim 2. The deficiencies of Kojima are not cured by the teachings of Gedeon.

Regarding Claim 5, Kojima does not teach a flange having rectangular cross-section and slits dividing all the sides of the rectangular cross-section of the flange, as recited in Claim 5, and this deficiency is not cured by Gedeon.

Regarding Claim 7, which depends on Claim 6, the recited protrusions project from outer peripheral surfaces of the shank and embrace corresponding corners of the rectangular cross-section of the shank, contrary to the teachings of Kojima and Gedeon.

Regarding Claim 8, which depends on Claim 7, the protrusions projecting from outer peripheral surfaces of the shank are disposed at opposite corners of the rectangular cross-section of the shank. No such teaching is found in Kojima and Gedeon.

Accordingly, Claim 2, dependent Claim 3, Claim 5, and dependents Claims 6-10 clearly distinguish patentably from the prior art and should be allowed.

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

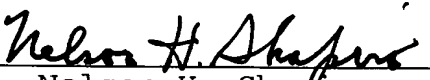
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NHS:lmb

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